

JOURNAL-
EVENING

EVANING 78,419

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McDowell Cites Cuba Surveillance

"A fly could not land in Cuba today without our knowing about it," U.S. Rep. Harris B. McDowell Jr., D-Del., said today.

McDowell rapped his opponent's criticism of the Kennedy administration's handling of the Cuban crisis as "irresponsible, irrational, and ill-advised."

He said the approach advocated by Wilmer F. (Rudy) Williams, his GOP opponent, "would take us to the brink of war with Cuba."

McDowell added that "the Republican National Campaign Committee did my opponent a disservice when they directed his attacks on our Cuba policy. This is a bipartisan policy."

"MUCH OF IT is directed by three Republicans in the Kennedy administration—Secretary of Defense McNamara, CIA Director John A. McCone, and McGeorge Bundy of the National Security Council."

"If the United States followed my opponent's recommendations, we would upset the whole historic course of American foreign policy; we would disrupt the alliances with other countries that have been so carefully nurtured; and we would invite the nuclear warfare that our best minds and talents are working around the clock to avoid."

McDowell continued: "For many years, we have developed a foreign policy based on partnership with our allies around the world. We have stuck with these alliances, morally and legally."

"WE SIMPLY cannot deviate from this established policy by taking unilateral, aggressive action against the Castro government in Cuba. This would play directly into the hands of Khrushchev and the Soviet government, with disastrous consequences in such areas as Berlin."

"Any thinking citizen must realize that we are continually combing the small island of Cuba with an elaborate system of surveillance by land, sea and air. A fly could not light in Cuba today without our knowing about it."

"If my opponent has some inside information not available to the government, he should bring it forward. If he has no more information than I suspect, the most charitable view that can be taken of his position is that it is frivolous."

"EXPERT estimates of the military buildup in Cuba are that this is entirely defensive. We do know that about 5,000 Soviet technicians have been sent into Cuba. All of this is going to make it more difficult for another invasion of the island."

"But by no means does it pose an offensive threat to the United States or any other Latin-American country."

"Only a few weeks ago, the 87th Congress passed a resolution by a vote of 384 to 7, committing the United States to a number of actions short of war. The resolution was supported by all but a hard core of John Birch-type Republicans."

"LIKE MOST of our foreign policy actions of the past fifteen years, it was bipartisan."

"The United States is committed to military action of Cuba receives any significant amount of offensive weapons. The United States Government will not permit any such offensive threat to develop in Cuba. We will continue to keep a close eye within and without Cuba."

"This policy is based on the experience and knowledge of many men experienced in both the diplomatic and military sciences. My opponent's experience in this field hardly falls into this category."

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